



News Release

For immediate release: March 7, 2014

(14-033)

Contacts: [Kelly Stowe](#), Communications Office
[Marqise Allen](#), Communications Office

360-236-4022

360-236-4072

Spokane physician's license suspended due to mental condition

OLYMPIA — The medical license of Spokane physician Keith A. Hurst (MD00029899) has been immediately suspended on allegations that he's unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a mental condition.

Hurst was formerly the medical director for Molina Healthcare from 2005 until resigning in March 2013. In September 2012, Hurst allegedly began sending offensive e-mail messages to staff, showing unusual behavior during meetings such as ranting, using profanity, and sleeping. After being warned verbally and in writing, Hurst asked for and was granted a leave of absence on January 17, 2013.

In February 2013, Hurst's employer scheduled a fitness-for-duty evaluation; he didn't show up after reportedly being arrested and jailed for driving while intoxicated. On March 5, 2013 Hurst was able to undergo his evaluation and subsequently resigned from his job effective March 9, 2013.

The fitness-for-duty evaluation diagnosed Hurst with bipolar affective disorder, marijuana dependency, and other unknown substance abuse. It found Hurst unfit for duty in all areas of his profession and concluded he shouldn't provide patient care or make decisions affecting patient care until he gets treatment for his mental condition and substance abuse and is reevaluated.

Hurst cannot practice as a physician in Washington until the charges are resolved and he has 20 days to respond to the charges and request a hearing.

Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or online by clicking the link to "[Provider Credential Search](#)" on the [department of health's home page](#).

Physician's license suspended

March 7, 2014

Page 2

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating physicians' and physician assistants' competency and quality. The commission develops rules, policies, and procedures to promote delivery of high-quality health care to state residents.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

###